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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 27 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you arrange for the note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic, a copy of which is attached (see annex), to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 145 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Emilio J. CARDENAS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/49/150.

Annex

Letter dated 27 July 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to draw your attention, and that of the international community, to the grave act of terrorism recently perpetrated in Buenos Aires.

On Monday, 18 July, at 9.53 a.m. in this city, the headquarters of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Aid Association, a building which also housed the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations, suffered a terrorist attack. The attack, which was carried out by a high-powered explosive device, almost completely destroyed the seven-storey building and caused serious damage to the adjacent buildings, as well as strong repercussions throughout the neighbourhood.

Until now, no definitive information is available on the number of victims; however, 82 bodies have already been recovered, and it is estimated that the tragic total will amount to nearly 100 dead, more than 200 wounded and 10 missing persons.

This new manifestation of the scourge of international terrorism, which amounted to an attack against the entire Argentine people, was most energetically repudiated by the Argentine society and Government, which desire only peace for themselves and for the rest of the world.

The bodies which were attacked in this case are civilian associations. The Argentine-Israeli Mutual Aid Association offers community services such as, inter alia, medical and social services, a job exchange service and valuable archives. The Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations is a federation which serves as an umbrella for Jewish organizations throughout the country, including cultural, religious and sports associations. This profile brings out even more graphically the degree of cruelty of the perpetrators of this act, who, by choosing this target in a central, densely populated area at a peak hour, were not unaware that they would affect a large number of civilians in their homes or workplaces.

As the investigation into this crime proceeds, my Government's certainty increases as to its origin and the responsibility of foreign terrorist organizations, and the possibility of the existence of ties between these organizations and foreign Governments is being examined. Nor can we discount the possibility that support may have been given by some marginal group residing in Argentina.

Events since that fateful day of 18 July have lent support to the assumption that the motive for the attack in Buenos Aires was to attempt to derail the peace process in the Middle East, whose advancement is irritating to extremists. Therefore, on behalf of my Government, I should like to reaffirm the strong Argentine determination to continue actively to support this peace process.

The Argentine Government strongly condemns this unjustifiable, savage attack and reiterates its firm commitment to use every means within its power to elucidate the events and find and punish the guilty parties.

In extending this blanket condemnation to all manifestations of terrorism, Argentina endorses the need to intensify international cooperation to prevent, combat and eliminate these acts, which affect the entire community of civilized States, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with international law. In this regard, I have especially in mind United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/122, of 20 December 1993, entitled "Human rights and terrorism", and the Declaration of Belem do Pará, recently adopted by the Organization of American States.

I should also like to underline that, in view of the above-mentioned events, my Government deems it necessary for the Security Council to study ways to react appropriately to international terrorism.

In light of the gravity of the events, I should like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 145 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Guido DI TELLA
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
International Trade and Worship

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